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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/973,458	04/03/2001	Venkata Katikaneni	F-113	8314
23117	7590	09/21/2006	EXAMINER	
NIXON & VANDERHYE, PC 901 NORTH GLEBE ROAD, 11TH FLOOR ARLINGTON, VA 22203			WU, RUTAO	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3639	

DATE MAILED: 09/21/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.		Applicant(s)	
	09/973,458		KATIKANENI ET AL.	
	Examiner		Art Unit	
	Rob Wu		3639	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _____ MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 July 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 13-37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 16-20 and 22-24 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 13-15, 21 and 25-37 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Status of Claims

1. In response filed July 7 2006, the applicant amended claims 13, 21, 25, 34. No new claims have been introduced and no claims have been cancelled. Claims 13-37 are pending in the current application.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 13-15, 21, and 25-37 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

For the purpose of this response, claim 13 is taken as a representation of the independent claims that are pending in the application.

The applicants amended claim 13 to now recite the limitation of determining if the postal indicia and the ad slogan may be printed in a single physical pass of the envelope through the print position of the path of travel postage printing system. The applicant argue that U.S. Pat No. 6,982,808 to Ogg et al that while the reference disclose rendering a print buffer in multiple passes in software, the reference does not teach or suggest multiple physical passes of the print media through the feed path.

Ogg et al disclose that the software performs a first set of adjustments to the drawing surface and renders the textual components... The client software preferably stores the image information for the graphic components as well as the corner coordinate points of the location where the image of the graphic components are to be

Art Unit: 3639

printed. Once the textual information is rendered, the client software preferably adjusts the drawing surface a second time. The client software traverses the list of saved images of the graphic components, rendering them for printing using the new coordinates. (col 19: lines 27-45) In short, Ogg et al disclose that the software renders textual components and then stores those components, then the software adjusts the drawing surface for a second set of components. Thus it can be seen that Ogg et al's invention performs multiple passes virtually. It has been the norm in the industry to change previously physically performed events into events that are done virtually to mimic those physical steps. The motivation behind performing events virtually can be attributed to factors such as efficiency, cost savings, time savings and safety. While Ogg et al does not expressly disclose sending an envelope physically through a printer multiple times, the examiner submits that since the prior teaches multiple passes virtually it would have been obvious at the time of the invention that multiple physical passes are also possible if not well known in the arts.

As evidence, U.S. Pat No. 6,389,327 to Thiel discloses sending an envelope through a printer multiple times physically to print franking and addressing indicia. (col 3: lines 40-60) Therefore it would have been obvious at the time the invention was made for Ogg et al to also perform multiple physical passes. Instead of rotating the drawing canvas in software as done by Ogg et al, the envelope can simply be rotated and sent back to the printer as disclosed by Thiel. Thiel provides the specific motivation for Ogg et al to perform such feature to be able to create an economic mail

Art Unit: 3639

processing system with a machine that is flexibly designed for various printing jobs. (col 2: lines 49-54)

3. In response to the applicant's request that a copy of the provisional application of Ogg et al to be provided to the applicant. The examiner directs the applicant to MPEP §1.19 for supplying documents.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 13-15, 21, 25-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat No. 6982808 to Ogg et al in view of U.S. Pat No. 6,389,327 to Thiel.

Referring to claim 13:

A postage printing system, comprising:

A registration wall; (Fig 12)

A transport device for feeding an envelope having plurality of lateral edges in a path of travel through the postage printing system where one of the plurality of lateral edges is aligned with the registration wall; (Fig 12; col 10: lines 31-35; col 13: lines 24-26)

A printer capable of printing a postal indicia and an ad slogan on the envelope, the printer being located in proximity to the path of travel so as to define a print position; (Fig 3; col 6: lines 42-45)

A control system in operative communication with the transport device and the printer, the control system for:

Obtaining an indication from an operator of a selected print location for the ad slogan; and (Fig 7; col 8: lines 42-45)

Determining if the postal indicia and the ad slogan may be printed in a single physical pass of the envelope through the print position of the path of travel postage printing system.

Ogg et al disclose that the software renders textual components and then stores those components, then the software adjusts the drawing surface for a second set of components. (col 19: lines 17-26) Ogg et al does not expressly disclose multiple physical passes.

Thiel discloses sending an envelope through a printer multiple times physically to print franking and addressing indicia. (col 3: lines 40-60) Therefore it would have been obvious at the time the invention was made for Ogg et al to also perform multiple physical passes. Instead of rotating the drawing canvas in software as down by Ogg et al, the envelope can simply be rotated and send back to the printer as disclosed by Thiel. Thiel provides the specific motivation for Ogg et al to perform such feature to be able to create an economic mail processing system with a machine that is flexibly designed for various printing jobs. (col 2: lines 49-54)

Referring to claim 14:

The postage printing system of claim 13, wherein:

If the control system determines that the postal indicia and the ad slogan cannot be printed in a single pass through the postage printing system, then the postal indicia is printed in one pass through the postage printing system and the ad slogan is printed in another pass through the postage printing system. (col 19: lines 23-45)

Referring to claim 15:

The postage printing system of claim 14, wherein:

Before the another pass through the postage printing system, the control system provides the operator with an indication of an anticipated orientation of feeding the envelope through the postage printing system based upon the selected print location. (Fig 23, 24; col 19: lines 35-45)

Referring to claim 21:

A postage printing system, comprising:

A registration wall; (Fig 12)

A transport device for feeding an envelop having a plurality of lateral edges in a path of travel through the postage printing system where one of the plurality of lateral edges is aligned with the registration wall; (Fig 12; col 10: lines 31-35; col 13: lines 24-26)

A printer capable of printing a postal indicia and an ad slogan on the envelope, the printer being located in proximity to the path of travel so as to define a print position; (Fig 3; col 6: lines 42-45)

A control system in operative communication with the transport device and the printer, the control system for:

Causing the postal indicia to be printed in one physical pass through the path of travel of the postage printing system and the ad slogan to be printed in another physical pass through the path of travel of the postage printing system; and

Ogg et al disclose that the software renders textual components and then stores those components, then the software adjusts the drawing surface for a second set of components. (col 19: lines 17-26) Ogg et al does not expressly disclose multiple physical passes.

Thiel discloses sending an envelope through a printer multiple times physically to print franking and addressing indicia. (col 3: lines 40-60) Therefore it would have been obvious at the time the invention was made for Ogg et al to also perform multiple physical passes. Instead of rotating the drawing canvas in software as done by Ogg et al, the envelope can simply be rotated and sent back to the printer as disclosed by Thiel. Thiel provides the specific motivation for Ogg et al to perform such feature to be able to create an economic mail processing system with a machine that is flexibly designed for various printing jobs. (col 2: lines 49-54)

Before the another physical pass through the path of travel of the postage printing system, providing the operator with an indication of an anticipated orientation of

Art Unit: 3639

feeding the envelope through the postage printing system based upon a selected print location. (Fig 23, 24; col 19: lines 35-45)

Referring to claim 25:

A method of operating a postage printing system, the method comprising:

Feeding an envelope having a plurality of lateral edges in a path of travel through the postage printing system and along a registration wall where one of the plurality of lateral edges is aligned with the registration wall; (Fig 12; col 10: lines 31-35; col 13: lines 24-26)

Defining a print position where a postal indicia and an ad slogan may be printed on the envelope; (Fig 14A-B; col 14: lines 31-55; col 15: lines 47-54;)

Obtaining an indication from an operator of a selected print location for the ad slogan; and (Fig 7; col 8: lines 42-45)

Determining if the postal indicia and the ad slogan may be printed in a single physical pass through the print position of the path of travel of the postage printing system.

Ogg et al disclose that the software renders textual components and then stores those components, then the software adjusts the drawing surface for a second set of components. (col 19: lines 17-26) Ogg et al does not expressly disclose multiple physical passes.

Thiel discloses sending an envelope through a printer multiple times physically to print franking and addressing indicia. (col 3: lines 40-60) Therefore it would have been

Art Unit: 3639

obvious at the time the invention was made for Ogg et al to also perform multiple physical passes. Instead of rotating the drawing canvas in software as done by Ogg et al, the envelope can simply be rotated and send back to the printer as disclosed by Thiel. Thiel provides the specific motivation for Ogg et al to perform such feature to be able to create an economic mail processing system with a machine that is flexibly designed for various printing jobs. (col 2: lines 49-54)

Referring to claim 26:

The method of claim 25, wherein:

If the postal indicia and the ad slogan cannot be printed in a single pass through the postage printing system, then the postal indicia is printed in one pass through the postage printing system and the ad slogan is printed in another pass through the postage printing system. (col 19: lines 27-45)

Referring to claim 27:

The method of claim 26, further comprising the step(s) of:

Before the another pass through the postage printing system, providing the operator with an indication of an anticipated orientation of feeding the envelope through the postage printing system based upon the selected print location. (Fig 23, 24; col 19: lines 35-45)

Referring to claim 28:

The method of claim 27, further comprising the step(s) of:

Detecting a distinguishing characteristic of the envelope; and (col 19: lines 30-33)

During the another pass:

Art Unit: 3639

Determining a feed orientation of the envelope based on detecting the distinguishing characteristic; (col 19: lines 40-45)

Comparing the fed orientation with the anticipated orientation; and (col 19: lines 4-16)

Bypassing printing of the ad slogan if the fed orientation and the anticipated orientation do not correspond. (col 15: lines 55-58)

Referring to claim 29:

The method of claim 28, wherein:

The one pass occurs prior to the another pass; and (col 19: lines 27-30)

The distinguishing characteristic of the envelope is the postal indicia. (col 19: lines 17-22)

Referring to claim 30:

The method of claim 29, wherein:

The postal indicia is printed along a top edge of the envelope; and (Fig 1, Fig 8)

Further comprising the step(s) of:

If the selected print location is along a bottom edge of the envelop, printing the ad slogan upside down so that the postal indicia and the ad slogan both read right side up when the envelope is viewed properly. (col 15: lines 37-40, 47-54)

Referring to claim 31:

The method of claim 26, further comprising the step(s) of:

Detecting a distinguishing characteristic of the envelope; and (col 19: lines 30-33)

During the another pass:

Art Unit: 3639

Determining a feed orientation of the envelope based on detecting the distinguishing characteristic; (col 19: lines 40-45)

Comparing the fed orientation with the anticipated orientation; and (col 19: lines 4-16)

Bypassing printing of the ad slogan if the fed orientation and the anticipated orientation do not correspond. (col 15: lines 55-58)

Referring to claim 32:

The method of claim 31, wherein:

The one pass occurs prior to the another pass; and (col 19: lines 27-30)

The distinguishing characteristic of the envelope is the postal indicia. (col 19: lines 17-22)

Referring to claim 33:

The method of claim 29, wherein:

The postal indicia is printed along a top edge of the envelope; and (Fig 1, Fig 8)

Further comprising the step(s) of:

If the selected print location is along a bottom edge of the envelop, printing the ad slogan upside down so that the postal indicia and the ad slogan both read right side up when the envelope is viewed properly. (col 15: lines 37-40, 47-54)

Referring to claim 34:

A method of operating a postage printing system, the method comprising the step(s) of:

Feeding an envelope having a plurality of lateral edges in a path of travel through the postage printing system and along a registration wall where one of the plurality of lateral edges is aligned with the registration wall; (Fig 12; col 10: lines 31-35; col 13: lines 24-26)

Defining a print position where a postal indicia and an ad slogan may be printed on the envelope; (Fig 14A-B; col 14: lines 31-55; col 15: lines 47-54;)

Causing the postal indicia to be printed in one physical pass through the path of travel of the postage printing system and the ad slogan to be printed in another physical pass through the path of travel of the postage printing system; and

Ogg et al disclose that the software renders textual components and then stores those components, then the software adjusts the drawing surface for a second set of components. (col 19: lines 17-26) Ogg et al does not expressly disclose multiple physical passes.

Thiel discloses sending an envelope through a printer multiple times physically to print franking and addressing indicia. (col 3: lines 40-60) Therefore it would have been obvious at the time the invention was made for Ogg et al to also perform multiple physical passes. Instead of rotating the drawing canvas in software as done by Ogg et al, the envelope can simply be rotated and sent back to the printer as disclosed by Thiel. Thiel provides the specific motivation for Ogg et al to perform such feature to be able to create an economic mail processing system with a machine that is flexibly designed for various printing jobs. (col 2: lines 49-54)

Before the another pass through the postage printing system, providing the operator with an indication of an anticipated orientation of feeding the envelope through the postage printing system based upon a selected print location. (Fig 23, 24; col 19: lines 35-45)

Referring to claim 35:

The method of claim 34, further comprising the step(s) of:

Detecting a distinguishing characteristic of the envelope; and (col 19: lines 30-33)

During the another pass:

Determining a feed orientation of the envelope based on detecting the distinguishing characteristic; (col 19: lines 40-45)

Comparing the fed orientation with the anticipated orientation; and (col 19: lines 4-16)

Bypassing printing of the ad slogan if the fed orientation and the anticipated orientation do not correspond. (col 15: lines 55-58)

Referring to claim 36:

The method of claim 35, wherein:

The one pass occurs prior to the another pass; and (col 19: lines 27-30)

The distinguishing characteristic of the envelope is the postal indicia. (col 19: lines 17-22)

Referring to claim 37:

The method of claim 36,

Further comprising the step(s) of:

If the selected print location is along a bottom edge of the envelop, printing the ad slogan upside down so that the postal indicia and the ad slogan both read right side up when the envelope is viewed properly. (col 15: lines 37-40, 47-54)

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 16-20, 22-24 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

7. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The closest prior art of record is U.S. Pat No. 6,982,808 to Ogg et al.

Ogg et al disclose a postage and ad printing system where depending on the margin requirements and the placement of the postage indicia the system is capable of printing an ad slogan on an envelope with the postage indicia.

As per claim 16 and 22, the closest prior art of record fails to teach or suggest using a scanner to detect distinguishing characteristic of the envelope to decide an orientation of the envelope for printing an ad slogan. Claims 17-20 depends on claim 16 and claims 23-24 depend on claim 22, thus are allowable for the same reason.

Conclusion

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP

Art Unit: 3639

§ 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

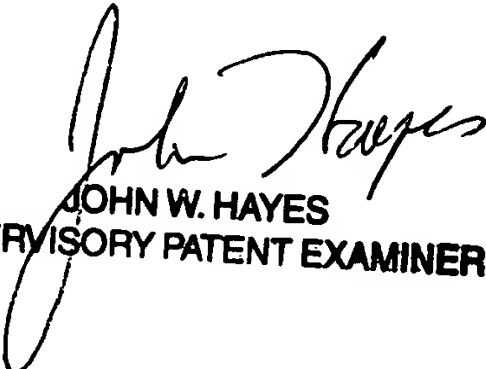
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rob Wu whose telephone number is (571)272-3136. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Hayes can be reached on (571)272-6708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3639

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

rw


JOHN W. HAYES
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER